

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 728
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Nason Michael Hopkins
of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness that the members of this General Assembly learned of the untimely passing of Lance Corporal Nason Michael Hopkins, who continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Marine Corps (USMC); and

WHEREAS, Nason Michael Hopkins, a native of Johnson City, was the son of Keith Hopkins and the former Gretchen E. Hyder; he was a graduate of Tri-Cities Christian School and attended East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Michael Hopkins was a delivery driver for Pet Dairy and a Lance Corporal in USMC Reserves with Lima Company in Gray, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Hopkins had served with great bravery and ability with the Marine Corps in Operation Iraqi Freedom; he was one of five Marines from the Gray unit who had volunteered to go back to Iraq in June of 2006 to assist a Michigan Marine unit that needed additional personnel; and

WHEREAS, Michael Hopkins was very close to his sister, Heidi, who also joined the Marine Corps and has served a tour of duty in Iraq as a radio operator; she plans to return to Iraq in January of 2007; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout member of the Baptist faith, he evinced those principles in his everyday life and as an annual volunteer for Toys for Tots; Michael Hopkins

was a very happy young man who loved life, and his hobbies were snowboarding, skiing, and karaoke; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, by his passing, he is reunited with his uncle, Paul M. Hyder; and great-grandmother, Evelyn S. Hurst; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his parents; sister, Heidi Sutphin, and husband, Jason; maternal grandparents, Dr. N.E. Hyder, Jr. and Elizabeth Hyder, of whom he was especially fond; maternal great-grandmother, Rhoda C. Hyder; two uncles, Nat E. Hyder III and Rev. Mike A. Hyder; girlfriend, Becca Sommers; and special friends, Tim Matthews, Robbie Blevins, and Jack Blevins; and

WHEREAS, Nason Michael Hopkins performed his duties in the United States Marine Corps with the utmost skill, dedication, professionalism and patriotism; his military service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lance Corporal Nason Michael Hopkins as we pause to commend his meritorious service in the United States Marine Corps, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Nason Michael Hopkins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.